

The Invention Claimed Is:

1. A mud flap holder assembly for use with motor vehicles, said mud flap holder assembly for holding a mud flap having a top portion and at least one flap securement member extending through the top portion and projecting from opposed sides of the top portion, said mud flap holder assembly comprising in combination:

a support member attachable to a motor vehicle; and
at least one mud flap support clip connected to said support, said at least one mud flap support clip having two clip segments extending downwardly from said support member, said clip segments having distal ends and bifurcated portions forming slots extending from said distal ends and said clip segments defining a space therebetween for receiving the top portion of a mud flap with said clip segments disposed at opposed sides of the top portion and with the at least one flap securement member positioned in the slots thereof at a predetermined location between said bifurcated portions, said slots being of variable width and said bifurcated portions converging below said predetermined location and forming a detent for engaging and supporting said flap securement member, at least one of said bifurcated portions being flexible whereby a downward pulling force applied to the mud flap will cause flexing of the flexible at least one bifurcated portion and release of the mud flap from

the mud flap holder assembly.

2. The mud flap holder assembly according to Claim 1 including a plurality of spaced mud flap support clips.

3. The mud flap holder assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one mud flap support clip is of integral construction and formed of sheet metal.

4. The mud flap holder assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said support member is an elongated bar.

5. The mud flap holder assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the configurations of the slots in the clip segments are substantially the same.

6. A mud flap support clip of unitary construction including a central clip portion and two clip segments extending from said central clip portion and disposed side by side to define a space therebetween for receiving the top portion of a mud flap, each of said clip segments having bifurcated clip end portions defining an open-ended, variable width slot for receiving a mud flap securement bolt of predetermined diameter at a predetermined slot location, said slot narrowing below said predetermined slot location whereby the bifurcated clip end portions are spaced apart a distance less than the predetermined diameter of said flap securement bolt and said bifurcated end portions will releasably support said mud flap securement bolt.

7. The mud flap support clip according to Claim 6 of integral construction and formed of sheet material.

8. The mud flap support clip according to Claim 7 wherein said slots are of substantially identical configuration.

9. In combination:

a mud flap having a top portion with a hole formed therein;

a support member attachable to a motor vehicle;

at least one mud flap support clip connected to said support member having a bifurcated clip segment forming a variable width slot open at one end; and

a mud flap securement bolt passing through the hole in the top portion of said mud flap positioned in said slot and frictionally engaged by said bifurcated clip segment to releasably retain said mud flap securement bolt in said slot and attached to said mud flap support clip until a pulling force applied to said mud flap attains a predetermined magnitude sufficient to cause said mud flap support clip to release said mud flap securement bolt and said mud flap.

10. The combination according to Claim 9 wherein said mud flap support clip includes two bifurcated clip segments, each forming a slot, said mud flap securement bolt positioned in both of said slots.

11. The combination according to Claim 9 wherein said bolt has a bolt head frictionally engaging said flap support clip and operable to resist pulling of said mud flap securement bolt away from said mud flap support clip.

12. The combination according to Claim 9 wherein a plurality of mud flap securement bolts project through a plurality of holes in the top portion of said mud flap and the combination including a plurality of mud flap support clips releasably connected to said plurality of mud flap securement bolts.